

## **Testimony**

### **Testimony for SB284: “AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS”**

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Arturo Iriarte, and I am from East Haven. I am also part of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Office of Faith and Culture.

I stand in support of SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community have access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. However, our work does not end with expanding access up to age of 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

I personally live the experience of my own kids when we came to U.S. many years ago, not having access to healthcare. It was sad and dangerous not having access to regular healthcare and and experience serious economical struggles with my wife and kids at the time. We had to bring them to the emergency room and deal with large bills to pay. Today, through my ministerial work with my church, I had the opportunity to hear other stories from many other ethnicities besides the great Hispanics community that have had the same problem that we faced as family some years ago. These new multiethnic immigrants face and struggles with the same problem. Please consider expanding access to HUSKY to children between the age of 0-8 years, passage of SB284, this is a matter of human dignity and the safeguard of young people from our country.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time.  
Arturo Iriarte